

Desert Rifles

Desert Rifles Issue 13

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Interim Governorate Council Members Take Solemn Oath



RESPONSIBILITY- A council member takes an oath during the first meeting of the interim Government council.

*Story and photos by Spc. Justin A. Carmack
350th MPAD*

AR RAMADI, Iraq--The Iraqi people endured three and a half decades of rule under the Ba'ath Party and Saddam Hussein. Now that the regime has fallen, Coalition Forces and local community leaders from the Al Anbar Region have joined hands to create a new Interim Government Council. Members of the newly established council bear a great weight. The future of Al Anbar and Iraq lies in their hands.

The sheiks, clerics, businesspersons and other various community leaders from the Al Anbar Region convened at Rifles Base for induction into the newly formed Interim Governorate Council of Al Anbar. Col. David Teeple, Commander of the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, presided over the ceremony. Additional panel members consisted of Michael Gfoellers, the CPA South-Central Regional Coordinator, Burgess, governor of the Al Anbar Region, and Sheikh Majed, the sheik of sheiks for the Al Anbar Region.

The Chief Judge for the province swore-in each of the forty-two attending members. The members were all required to take the oath by placing a hand on the Koran and swearing to Allah a commitment to provide honest service during time of appointment to the council.

Governor Abel Al Kareem Burgess Alzaldin congratulated the members, reminded them of their obligation and urged them to join hands with Coalition Forces and build a new Iraq.

The council will work in conjunction with the Governor and Coalition Forces in creating new policy and other important decisions for the province.

Members of the council have voting privileges. They are also permitted to resign their seat on the council at anytime and they may be removed from the council with due cause.

In addition to swearing-in, the new members and Teeple also discussed plans to improve security within the province. One plan, in hopes of clearing the community of rocket propelled grenades, will pay \$500 for functional shoulder-fired anti-air weapons and \$250 for

non-functional. The 3d ACR plans to increase the number of joint patrols with soldiers and police from local cities. New highway patrols are also being established and should be functional within the near future. Other civil projects include plans to improve water, electricity and employment.



Understanding-Col. Teeple (right) and a council member (left) talk after the meeting as Nader Mathkour translates.

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Local Community Gets New Voice Through IMN



Story and Photos by Cpl. Joe Niesen
350th MPAD

AR RAMDI, Iraq--The first meeting of the Al Anbar branch of the Iraqi Media Network was held at the mayor's cell on Wednesday. Prospective members of the burgeoning free press in Iraq were there to decide who was to play what role as the first free press in Iraq is established. Soldiers from the



VOICE--Four of the new heads of the Iraqi Media Network in Al Anbar. (From Left) Ahmid Al Hamdani (newspaper), Hamed Abdulah (IMN regional director), Dr. Ibrahim Omar (executive editor), Saad Shawki (newspaper).

350th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, were in attendance to provide any assistance they could, be it monetary or experience based.

"The press can be considered as the fourth branch of government. They allow the peoples' opinion to be delivered to the other branches," said Sgt. 1st Class Keith O'Donnell, 350th MPAD.

Many of the Iraqis in attendance were members of the press before the war and wanted to reclaim their old jobs.

Staff Sgt. Douglas Salewsky of 350th MPAD coordinated most of the funding for the press in the Al Anbar region working with the military and members of non-military organizations such as OCPA.

"We are planting the seed today, what will become of these media outlets is completely up to you," said Salewsky.

It was impressed upon the attendees that they were a part of a free press and that as a

result, they were not to allow their work to be censored by it by an external agency or internally.

"If you think that the Coalition Forces have done something wrong, report it. If they are doing good work, report it. If you

"If you think that there is something that the people need to know, report it. Your responsibility is to insure that it is truthful and accurate, this is a huge responsibility,"

-- Sgt. 1st Class Kieth O'Donnell.

think that there is something that the people need to know, report it. Your responsibility is to insure that it is truthful and accurate, this is a huge responsibility," said O'Donnell. Many of those in attendance were thrilled at the ideas

put forth by Salewsky and O'Donnell. The idea that they had the responsibility to create a truthful and accurate account of the region's news was made clear by the soldiers in attendance.

"I am thrilled at this moment. We have control of our media," said Saad Shawki, a member of Al Anbar's newly formed newspaper agency.

Prior to the war, many media agencies were turned into propaganda machines by Saddam's regime. They were told what to report, how to report it and had very little creative or unbiased input in their products whether television, newspaper, or radio. The formation of the Iraqi Free Press is working to give a voice to the people of Iraq who have been silenced for so long.

"We are doing a great job here, I just hope that they are allowed to continue with their work once we have left," said Salewsky.

The meeting concluded after the department heads were named and the others in attendance were reassured of their titles and responsibilities as well as their pay and geographical areas of responsibility.

In the coming months, the Al Anbar IMN branch will locate additional funding, procure facilities and experience various growing pains.

Their work will improve, and they will slowly establish their reputation as a new and creditable



VOICE--Regional director Hamed Abdulah explains to the attendees what will be expected of them as they move forward with the creation of an Iraqi free press.

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Pump Station Project Helps Iraqi Independence

*Sgt. 1st Class Gary Qualls
Special Correspondent to the Desert Rifles*

AR RAMADI, Iraq - A newly rebuilt guardhouse at an oil pump station here will contribute to the transition of Iraqi citizens taking control of their own country.

The 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is attached to Regimental, Headquarters, Headquarters Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, financed the project, which cost \$20,000.

"This will facilitate the Iraqi guards moving in and guarding one of their own critical facilities and will enable the 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment (who was guarding the site) to concentrate on other functions," Capt. Larrey

Mouton, civil affairs team leader, 490th Civil Affairs Battalion., said.

Iraqi contractors put in new sinks, installed air conditioning, placed a

"They were happy to be working,, They are really hard workers. They even slept there so they could finish the project faster."

--Capt. Larrey Mouton

refrigerator in the guard shack, built and emplaced several doors, rewired the electrical network for the facility and painted it.

The guardhouse will be a living quarters for Iraqi guards, who will be part of Facilities Protective Services in Iraq, the agency that oversees the protection of

critical sites in the country, such as water stations, electrical power plants and oil pump stations.

Another project plus, is that the task has been good for the morale of the Iraqi workers, Mouton said.






"They were happy to be working," he said. "They are really hard workers. They even slept there so they could finish the project faster."

The contractors finished the extensive job in a week-and-a-half, Mouton noted.






"This project allows our military unit to move out of the area and move onto other missions," the civil affairs officer said. "It's a really big step in Iraqis taking care of their own facility, in taking care of themselves."

SPORTS UPDATE





American League Baseball Standings

		W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road	Division	Last 10	Streak
	NY Yankees	66	41	.617		30-21	36-20	25-19	5-5	L1
	Boston	63	45	.583	3.5	35-16	28-29	26-22	5-5	L3
	Toronto	54	55	.495	13	25-30	29-25	24-30	3-7	L4
	Baltimore	51				28-24	23-31	17-19	5-5	W1
	Tampa Bay	41	66	.383	25	22-31		22-24	6-4	W4

L Central

		W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road	Division	Last 10	Streak
	Kansas City	57	50	.533		29-27		32-14	3-7	L4
	Chi. White Sox	58	51	.532		33-20		29-24	9-1	W5
	Minnesota	54		.500	3.5	31-26		18-20	5-5	W3
	Cleveland	45		.413	13	25-27		25-23	4-6	L2
	Detroit	28						12-35	2-8	L5

L West

		W	L	Pct.	GB	Home	Road	Division	Last 10	Streak
	Seattle	66	43	.606		33-24	33-19	22-17	6-4	L1
	Oakland	63	46	.578	3	39-17	24-29	22-17	7-3	W2
	Anaheim	53	55		12.5	31-26	22-29	17-22	3-7	W1
	Texas	46	63	.422	20	27-29	19-34	17-22	6-4	W3

Guilty only of adultery, Bryant says

EAGLE, Colo.- Kobe Bryant was charged yesterday with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman in a case bound to tarnish the career of one of the NBA's brightest young superstars.

Bryant denied the charge, saying he was guilty only of adultery.

"I didn't force her to do anything against her will. I'm innocent," he said. "I sit here in front of you guys furious at myself, disgusted at myself for making a mistake of adultery."

The 24-year-old Los Angeles Lakers' guard faces probation to life in prison if convicted of the single felony count, Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said.

Hurlbert said Bryant forced the victim into "submission" through physical force but refused to disclose other details.

Bryant's lawyer, Pamela Mackey, said he will plead innocent. Speaking at Bryant's news conference at the Lakers' arena, she said the defence will be that the sexual encounter was "between two consenting adults."

Bryant, free on \$25,000 (U.S.) bail, must return to court in Eagle on Aug. 6 for a hearing.

NBA commissioner David Stern said the league would have no comment until the case is settled.

3d ACR brings 'raggedy ol' school' to life

Story by Gary L. Qualls Jr.
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

ABUTIBAN, Iraq - Education has a new, bright, smiling face in this small Iraqi village and it's causing the villagers to smile right back at it.

The villagers' school, which was originally thrown

"The people had no money and no proper materials to build the school so every man, woman and child in the village worked together and used whatever they had and just threw it together,"

--Capt. Edward Palacios

together by order of Saddam Hussein and was starting to fall apart, was completely rebuilt by 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment earlier this month.

"The school director thanked us profusely for rebuilding the school," said Capt. Edward Palacios, a civil affairs officer with the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion, which is attached to 3d ACR. "The people here are excited about it."

The Regiment hired a local contractor to do the project, but its engineer unit, the 122nd Engineer Battalion, was also involved throughout the rebuilding process. The school was originally built two or three years ago when



SCHOOL--Before the war, the school house in Abutiban, Iraq was little more than a shack with a leaky roof. *Photo by Capt. Edward Palacios*

Saddam Hussein ordered it to be constructed in three days.

"The people had no money and no proper materials to build the school so every man, woman and child in the village worked together and used whatever they had and just threw it together."

"The roof was simply a thatch roof with woven material that sagged badly. There was no electricity-no toilet facilities-nothing," Palacios said.

The Abutiban school project was sparked when the school director approached Palacios and pleaded with him to rebuild his village's school.

"We had done some work on schools in the area and the school director said, 'Why do you work on these other schools and you don't work on our school when our school so desperately needs it?'" said Palacios.

The Abutiban school had initially been overlooked because it is on the border of 3d ACR and another unit's area of responsibility, the civil affairs officer explained.

The school director's pleadings paid off as the Abutiban school project was approved. Construction workers and engineers put in a new roof, bathroom, water tanks, fans, windows and chalkboards. The project cost \$50,000, Palacios said. "It's a whole new school."

That's causing some whole new smiles in this small Iraqi town.



SCHOOL--With the aid of soldiers from the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, the school house was completely renovated by the community. *Photo by Capt. Edward Palacios*

Troopers Remember 'Fox 6' at Memorial Service

*By Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.
Special Correspondent to Desert Rifles*

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq - Troopers gathered here July 27 to remember a commander known for putting his soldiers, his fellow man and his mission above his own life, "Fox 6," Capt. Joshua Byers.

Superiors, peers and subordinates spoke of Byers' deep sense of religion, love for his soldiers, advanced tactical and leadership skills and love for Army life at the service.

Service speakers talked of how Byers not only had deep religious beliefs, but also "walked his talk." They spoke of how the 29-year-old officer was a "soldier's commander," willing to do anything for his troops.

Troopers fondly recalled how he bought some chickens and set up chicken races and created a mudslide for his soldiers' enjoyment on the 4th of July.

Byers was not only known for his love and compassion for his troops as a commander, but also for his tactical prowess and for his leadership ability.

He was trusted with the responsibility of mission plans for the entire squadron, for example, a duty typically reserved only for majors. As a leader, he was known for leading by example. He never asked a soldier to do anything he wasn't willing to do himself, ceremony speakers pointed out.

Speakers recalled that not only did Byers excel in the Army, but he also loved the life of a soldier. One speaker told of how

Byers celebrated his birthday while being shot at on the Syrian border in Western Iraq.

"He opened a box from his wife and included in it was a Spider Man hat and Spider Man goggles. He wore them, got a pound cake out of an MRE and jumped around and enjoyed his birthday while bullets were flying over his head. Capt. Byers said, 'Can you believe that we get paid to do this!'"



Remembrance--Soldiers offer a final farewell to Capt. Joshua Byers, commander, Fox Troop 3d ACR.

From the Desk of The Regimental Command Sergeant Major



Counseling is a must regardless of the environment. Whether it is Fort Carson or Rifles Base, soldiers have a right to be counseled on their actions and leaders have a responsibility to make it happen. Soldiers need to know what is expected of them, especially as it pertains to promotions and other advancements. Counseling helps soldiers to understand how their personal roles relate to the unit and the scope of their responsibilities and actions.

On a related note, incidents of sexual harassment and equal opportunity issues are on the rise. Such actions on the part of any soldier are detrimental not only to the success of the mission, but unit integrity and morale as well. As leaders, we should continue to stress the importance of adhering to the Army values in your counseling programs. Ensure that your soldiers are informed of their responsibilities regarding these issues.

I ask you to please continue coaching, teaching and mentoring our soldiers. By doing this, you are aiding the soldiers' success in their military careers.

Thank you for what you do every day and always remember that freedom isn't free.

May God continue to bless us all.

Brave Rifles!

Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Caldwell

The Back Page...

North Korea to Participate in Multilateral Nuclear Talk

North Korea has confirmed it has agreed to participate in multilateral talks on its nuclear development program. The official news agency, KCNA, says North Korea made the proposal Thursday during talks in New York with U.S. officials. It says the talks would include the two Koreas, Japan, China, Russia and the United States. No timing or place for the talks is certain yet, but U.S. officials have said that meetings could begin in Beijing by September. North Korea's decision fulfills a key demand of the United States. The Bush administration has said the only way to end the crisis surrounding North Korea's nuclear program is through talks with Pyongyang's neighbors and the major nuclear powers. For the past nine months, North Korea has been insisting that it would only take part in direct talks with the United States. China has tried to organize a new round of negotiations for several weeks. The diplomatic activity comes amid increasing evidence that North Korea is restarting the nuclear weapons program it agreed to freeze in 1994.

Al Qaida 'operating in Iraq'

Al Qaida is probably among "terrorist" groups operating against American forces in Iraq, the U.S. commander in the country said yesterday.

Attacks on his troops are getting more sophisticated and more deadly, Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez told a news conference in Baghdad, with "professionals" clearly involved. But U.S. forces were learning from reverses.

Sanchez said this week that Iraq was becoming a "terrorist magnet" for anti-American groups.

Asked if Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network of radicals was among those present, he replied: "They probably are operating in Iraq."

He also named Ansar Al Islam, which formerly had a base in the mountainous Kurdish-controlled zone of northern Iraq, and said he thought "other extremist groups" were active too. "There are foreign fighters that have come into this country," he said. "And some fundamentalists also." Suggestions that ousted dictator Saddam Hussain might be cooperating with Al Qaida were floated among possible grounds for the U.S.-led invasion, although evidence is lacking and Osama bin Laden was a fierce critic

of Saddam's secular regime.

Sanchez said an increasing sophistication in attacks on his forces had contributed to greater casualties of late - 19 soldiers have been killed in the past two weeks alone, out of 52 since Washington declared major combat over.

"The fighting goes on," Sanchez said of the three months that has now passed since May 1, when President George W. Bush made that declaration.

"We're fighting a low-intensity conflict that is multifaceted," he added, listing disparate groups including "criminals", Saddam loyalists and "radicals" among U.S. foes.

"The enemy is increasing the sophistication," he said, listing a "spectrum" of devices like rocket-propelled grenades, plastic explosive being used against troops.

Thunderstorms Continue to move through the midwest

(AP) -- Thunderstorms moved through the Southeast and Midwest, while parts of the West had heavy rain and hot temperatures.

Storms were reported from the Gulf Coast to Ohio Valley, with most areas picking up between a half inch to an inch of rain. There were isolated showers in the Upper Midwest and western Great

Lakes.

In the West, there were showers and thunderstorms across portions of the Southern Rockies, Desert Southwest, Great Basin and California.

The Northeast had fair to partly cloudy skies and dry conditions. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states on Thursday ranged from a high of 99 degrees in Hays, Salina and Hill City, Kansas, to a low of 40 degrees in Leadville, Colorado.

After 30 years, ozone is recovering

For the first time, scientists have uncovered what they see as unambiguous evidence that Earth's sunscreen, a tenuous shield of ozone in the stratosphere, is slowly beginning to recover from nearly 30 years of human-triggered loss.

In addition, new research is showing for the first time that a worrisome latecomer to the list of compounds threatening the ozone layer is vanishing worldwide from the lower atmosphere. From a global standpoint, "this is the most significant environmental success story of the 20th century," says Michael Newchurch, an atmospheric chemist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville. The Montreal Protocol first limited, and then banned, a group of chemicals known as chlorofluorocarbons

(CFCs). It was later expanded to include a wider range of ozone-threatening chemicals, including halons and, most recently, methyl bromide. CFCs were widely used in a range of products and technologies, while halons found broad use as fire suppressants.

This year, Stephen Montzka, an atmospheric chemist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Lab in Boulder, Colo., looked at bromine data from its monitoring stations around the world and found that bromine concentrations have fallen nearly 5 percent since 1998.

The decline "is substantial," he notes, "considering that bromine is 45 times more efficient" at depleting ozone than the chlorine in CFCs. His team's work is slated to appear in an upcoming edition of Geophysical Research Letters.

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

?

How many movies does Bob Hope have to his credit?

Last weeks Answer:

The southern Iraqi city of Hilla.